To: Clem Richardson

From: Sandra Bermudez

Re: Early Identification of Pregnant Teens as At-Risk

Mr. Richardson,

In an effort to reduce the rate of teen pregnancy at Baker High and consequently raise the graduation rate, I would like to propose a simple intervention program to help identify at-risk female students at Baker. Mobile County has the highest teen pregnancy rate in Alabama, and Baker High could set a great example for other high schools by starting this intervention program.

What I propose is to educate all the staff at Baker High about the impact teen pregnancy has on our schools and our society. For example, pregnancy is the top reason girls across the nation give for dropping out of high school. In fact, only about 50% of teenage girls who become pregnant graduate from high school, compared to 90% of girls who do not become pregnant during their teen years. If our school could lower its teen pregnancy rate even marginally, we could expect our graduation rate for females, and thus overall, to raise substantially.

This plan will be minimal in cost and time, and will work alongside much of what our school already does to identify at-risk students. Teachers, paraprofessionals, administrators, and counselors will be given pamphlets with statistics relating to teen pregnancy and its profound effects on education. The pamphlet will also include tips to on how to work with pregnant teens in class, including suggested accommodations to help increase success. In our next faculty meeting, these pamphlets will be given out and discussed. The faculty will be informed that pregnant teens or teens with prior pregnancies should be referred to the counselors, and all counselors will notify teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators of these at-risk girls. All names are to remain strictly confidential and are for the sole purpose of helping these girls. Also, I propose these girls also be referred to Title X, a program run by the Mobile County Department of Health, dedicated to lowering the teen pregnancy rate in Mobile County.

Several other school districts across the country are making similar accommodations to lower their teen pregnancy rates and increase graduation rates. We can set a precedent in our county by making it our policy and goal to reduce teen pregnancy rates and raise graduation rates of female students. Please contact me at your convenience so we can discuss my proposal.

Thank you,

Sandra Bermudez

Rubric Total (from above) \_\_\_\_\_

+ \_\_/4 Proposal Handout Completion Points

+ \_\_/4 Peer Review Points

+ \_\_/6 Revision Points **= \_\_\_\_\_\_/50 total points**